

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 091904Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3490

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1792

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON GSP

REF: STATE 64566, 68756

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

BEGIN SUMMARY: UNCTAD GSP MISSION CONCLUDED SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO COSTA RICA WITH SEMINAR APRIL 5-6. MISSION PROVIDED EXTENSIVE AND PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR IN EXPLOITING US GSP. END SUMMARY.

1. VERY WELL-INFORMED AND ARTICULATE UNCTAD MISSION ON GENERALIZED SYSTEMS OF PREFERENCES CONCLUDED A SIX-DAY VISIT TO COSTA RICA WITH A TWO--DAY SEMINAR HELD IN THE COSTA RICAN-U.S. CULTURAL CENTER APRIL 5-6.

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A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

OF APPROXIMATELY 100 WAS PRESENT AT SEMINAR INAUGURATION IN WHICH CHARGE AND MINISTER OF ECONOMY PARTICIPATED. ATTENDANCE FOR REMAINDER OF SEMINAR VARIED FROM 70-80. ALTHOUGH MISSION TOUCHED ON ALL MAJOR GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SYSTEMS, EMPHASIS WAS ON U.S. GSP SCHEME. FACT THAT MISSION FROM EEC GAVE GSP SEMINAR FEBRUARY 23, 24 IN SAN JOSE OBVIATED NEED FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION OF EEC SYSTEM. IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER SYSTEMS, U.S. GSP CAME OUT AHEAD ON EXTENT OF PRODUCT COVERAGE AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY ASPECT; ONLY SIGNIFICANT AREA WHERE EUROPEAN GSP APPEARED IN MORE FAVORABLE LIGHT WAS IN TREATMENT ACCORDED PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN COMMON MARKET/FREE TRADE AREAS.

2. MISSION, IN BOTH SEMINAR AND IN INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR, PROVIDED EXTENSIVE AMOUNT OF TECHNICAL DATA OF PRACTICAL NATURE E.G. DETAILED EXPLANATION ON COMPLETION AND USE TF UNCTAD FORM A. IN THIS REGARD, FERNANDO MACIAS, U.S. CUSTOMS, WAS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN DESCRIBING CLEARANCE PROCEDURE FOR GSP SHIPMENTS TO U.S., INCLUDING SUCH ITEMS AS RETROACTIVE DOCUMENTATION, POSTING BOND WHEN FORM A DOES NOT ACCOMPANY SHIPMENT, APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR RECLASSIFICATION, ETC.

3. EXPLANATION BY MISSION MEMBER SANCHEZ OF HOW PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS COULD ORGANIZE JOINT EFFORT TO EFFECTIVELY EXPLOIT EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN GSP, COMPLETE WITH SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM SHOWING RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC, PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS AND INFORMATION FLOW, WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN PROVIDING SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO MAXIMIZE UTCVIZATION OF GSP.

4. SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN ADDING ITEMS TO LIST OF ARTICLES ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. GSP. HOWEVER, IN THIS REGARD SIECA REP. GIRON NOTED CENTRAL AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES SEEKING TO HAVE ITEMS ADDED TO LIST WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN WEAK NEGOTIATING POSITION IF CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WERE NOT ACTIVELY EXPLOITING THE ITEMS PRESENTLY INCLUDED IN GSP LIST, MANY OF WHICH WERE INCLUDED AT THEIR REQUEST.

5. ONLY CONTENTIOUS PERIOD DURING SEMINAR OCCURED LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON DURING EFFORT TO DRAFT CONCLUSIONS WHEN LIVELY AND INCONCLUSIVE DEBATE

ENSUED OVER WHETHER OR NOT COMPETITIVE NEED CLAUSE
IN U.S. GSP SYSTEM WOULD RESTRICT COSTA RICAN
EXPORTS TO U.S. GIVEN LACK OF CONSENSUS ON THIS
ISSUE, REFERENCE TO COMPETITIVE NEED CLAUSE WAS
LIMITED TO EXPLANATION OF ITS OPERATION WITH
STATEMENT THAT ITS INTENTION WAS TO BENEFIT
COUNTRIES WITH INCIPENT OR WEAK ECONOMIES.

6. TO EXTENT SEMINAR STIMULATED INTEREST IN
EXPORTING PROCESSED AND SEMI-PROCESSED FOOD
ARTICLES ON GSP LIST WHICH WOULD REPRESENT NEW
COMMERCIAL MARKETS FOR SMALL FARMERS, IT WAS
USEFUL IN RELATION TO SHAPING OF A.I.D.
"CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE" PROJECTS IN COSTA RICA.

7. IN SUMMARY, MISSION BELIEVES UNCTAD GSP
MISSION WAS EFFECTIVE, TIMELY, AND PROVIDED
ESSENTIAL AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY
WITH REGARD TO U.S. GSP, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN
HERETOFORE AVAILABLE TO GOCR OR LOCAL PRIVATE
SECTOR.

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